



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

August 18, 2005

News Release

ANAHEIM TEACHER CHARGED WITH POSSESSING AND TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

LOS ANGELES – A former instructor at Orangeview Junior High School in Anaheim faces up to 30 years in prison after being charged with possessing and transporting child pornography.

Michael Timothy Arnold, 44, appeared in federal court here yesterday and was ordered held without bond by U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Game Jr. Arnold, who worked in the math department at Orangeview Junior High School prior to his arrest, was named in a two-count indictment handed down Friday.

Arnold was taken into custody by agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at his San Juan Capistrano residence August 4. He is scheduled to be arraigned August 23. A trial date has not yet been set.

Suspicious about Arnold arose after U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers referred him for further inspection at Los Angeles International Airport in late July when he arrived following a three-week trip to the Philippines. During that inspection, CBP officers discovered sexually explicit images of underage males and females on a laptop computer, memory stick, and CDs Arnold had in his checked luggage.

CBP alerted ICE which opened a formal investigation. Subsequently, agents in ICE's computer forensics group conducted an analysis of Arnold's computer media and found nude images of children, including a girl believed to be approximately eight-years-old who was wearing a metal collar around her neck and shackles. The CDs also contained graphic text of Internet exchanges between someone whom authorities suspect is Arnold, and individuals who appear to be in the Philippines. In those messages, the sender is soliciting sex with children.

"This case is particularly disturbing because of the highly graphic nature of the images we found," said Loraine Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Los Angeles. "Our investigation into Mr. Arnold and his activities is continuing. ICE is using all of its tools and authorities to target those who prey on and sexually exploit children, both here or abroad."

The federal charges against Arnold are part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive ICE initiative aimed at those who prey on children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Nearly 900 of the more than 6,200 child sex offenders arrested by ICE nationwide as part of Operation Predator have been made by ICE agents in the Southland.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.